

## CLAIMS

- 1.(currently amended): A refractory article for use in the casting of molten metal comprising a carbon-containing refractory piece having a first outer surface, an insulating coating having a second outer surface and covering at least a portion of the first outer surface, and a glaze covering at least a portion of the second outer surface.
- 2.(original): The refractory article of claim 1, wherein the refractory piece comprises a carbon-bonded refractory composition.
- 3.(original): The refractory article of claim 1, wherein the refractory piece comprises a nozzle.
- 4.(original): The refractory article of claim 3, wherein the nozzle comprises a thin-slab nozzle.
- 5.(original): The refractory article of claim 1, wherein the insulating coating is made from an aqueous suspension comprising 20-80 wt.% ceramic matrix, 5-40 wt.% insulating microspheres, 0.5-15 wt.% one or more binders, 5-20 wt.% of a metal capable of melting under preheat conditions, and up to 25 wt.% water.
- 6.(original): The refractory article of claim 1, wherein the glaze comprises a composition resistant to oxygen diffusion.

7-13. (canceled)

- 14.(new): The refractory article of claim 1 made by a process comprising:  
applying the insulating coating over at least a portion of the first outer surface; and  
applying the glaze over at least a portion of the insulating coating.

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- 15.(new): The refractory article of claim 14, further comprising applying the insulating coating as an aqueous suspension and drying the suspension to form the insulating coating.
- 16.(new): The refractory article of claim 14, further comprising applying the glaze as a slip and drying the slip to form the glaze.
- 17.(new): The refractory article of claim 14, wherein applying the insulating coating and the glaze includes an application method selected from the group consisting of spraying, dipping, flooding and brushing.
- 18.(represented): A refractory article for use in the casting of molten metal comprising a refractory piece having a first outer surface, an insulating coating having a second outer surface and covering at least a portion of the first outer surface, and a glaze covering at least a portion of the second outer surface.
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